

~~TOP SECRET~~

9 April 1963

*W. Alexis Johnson Ford*

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** Deputy Under Secretary of State  
for Political Affairs

**SUBJECT :** Concurrence in Proposal for Action  
under NSAM 192

**REFERENCE :** Memorandum dated 18 Mar 63 from the  
Deputy Under Secretary of State, Subj:  
Further Action Under NSAM 192

I agree with the contingency plan referred to in the  
referenced memorandum and concur in the proposal to transmit  
it to the President.

With respect to the associated study relating to satellite  
inspection and a system for neutralizing satellites in orbit, I feel  
compelled to emphasize that a practical operating system which  
would accomplish either of these two objectives is beyond our  
present capability. An intensive development program would be  
necessary to obtain a non-nuclear kill system for satellites in a  
simple orbit and the feasibility of developing such a system for  
more complicated satellites is not yet clearly established.  
Even more difficult would be the development of a practical  
system for inspecting a satellite and determining whether it  
contained a nuclear weapon.

/s/ John A. McCone

**JOHN A. McCONE**  
Director

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

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for Political Affairs

SUBJECT : Concurrence in Proposal for Action  
under NSAM 192

REFERENCE : Memorandum dated 18 Mar 63 from the  
Deputy Under Secretary of State, Subj:  
Further Action Under NSAM 192

I agree with the contingency plan referred to in the reference  
memorandum and concur in the proposal to transmit it and the  
associated study relating to satellite inspection to the President.

John A. McCone  
Director

*Leavitt  
9 Apr 63*

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